

Franklin dairy day focuses on water

BY RUTH BENEDICT CHAMBERSBURG -- Approximately 100 area farmers attended the Franklin County Extension Dairy Day held at the Holiday Inn here in Chambersburg on Tuesday, December 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Franklin County Dairy Agent, Philip Wagner, coordinated the event and said he felt turnout was good.

Richard S. Adams, Penn State Dairy Specialist, spoke about "Water Quality Problems and Their Relationship to Dairy Cattle Health and Production". He supplied area farmers with valuable information on water intake and water quality for dairy cattle.

Adams said water is often overlooked as an important nutrient and that lack of good water and water intake "may limit milk production, growth and adversely affect health."

He went on to discuss the possible causes for inadequate water intake; the visible signs of inadequate and excessive water intake, and the methods used to determine water intake.

Another area covered in his talk was water quality and the affects it has on production and health.

Adams said water quality problems occur more frequently with wells and sometimes springs, and that septic tanks and milkhouse waste are often involved.

In concluding his talk,

Adams spoke on the chemical and bacterial quality of water. Both of these areas can also have an affect on the total performance of a farmer's dairy cattle, he said.

The second morning speaker was Penn State Agricultural Engineer Henry Wooding, Jr.

Wooding addressed the group of farmers with a slide presentation. He focused on the theme "Make Your Water Supply Safe."

Since many farmers in Franklin County use a well, Wooding concentrated mainly on the well and its supply.

He said there are measures a farmer can take to make his well safe and unpolluted.

For those just drilling and building a well, Wooding presented methods of making good well casings and tops to help reduce the chance of well pollution.

The location and good protection of new wells were also areas Wooding covered during his presentation.

In ending, Wooding related that there are three primary methods you can use if pollution still remains a significant problem once you have taken protective measures for decreasing pollution.

They are chlorination, ultraviolet light, and the use of iodine.

Of the three, Wooding recommended the use of chlorination as it seems to be the most common, most reliable and most fullproof.

Completing the morning program was Dr. Robert Eberhart, a Penn State Professor of Veterinary Science.

Dr. Eberhart's slide



Dr. Robert Eberhart, right, talks to a farmer during the Franklin County Extension Dairy Day. Eberhart, a Penn State Professor of Veterinary Science, spoke to a group of area farmers on "Coliform Mastitis."

presentation dealt mainly on "coliform mastitis" which is a class of environmental bacteria.

Eberhart focused on the prevention of coliform mastitis.

He stressed to the group the importance of keeping cows and standing areas clean and dry, and manure scraped away from under the cattle.

Dr. Eberhart noted that one important prevention measure is the washing of the udder and teat, making sure the teat end is washed and dried off, thus giving bacteria less chance of entering the teat end.

Many farmers fail to do this because it does require some extra effort on the dairyman's part, he said.

Richard Adams again spoke in the afternoon.

His slide presentation on "Milk Fat Test Depression,

Depressed Appetites, Selenium Update" revolved mainly around milk fat test depression, why it goes down, and methods to correct it.

minerals and protein in feed has an affect on fat test.

Poor quality feed which is high in fiber, low in energy and protein (an unbalanced ration) will depress your fat test.

He noted the importance of not overfeeding, for overfeeding can decrease fat test.

The dairy day concluded with a question-answer period which gave those in attendance an opportunity to direct their own questions and dairy problems to the speakers.



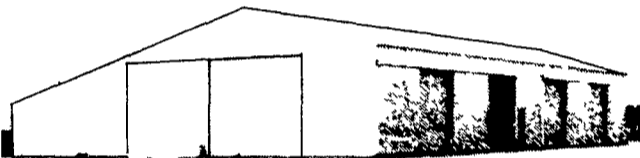
Richard Adams, left, talked with several Franklin County dairy farmers at the county's Extension Dairy Day held in Chambersburg.

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